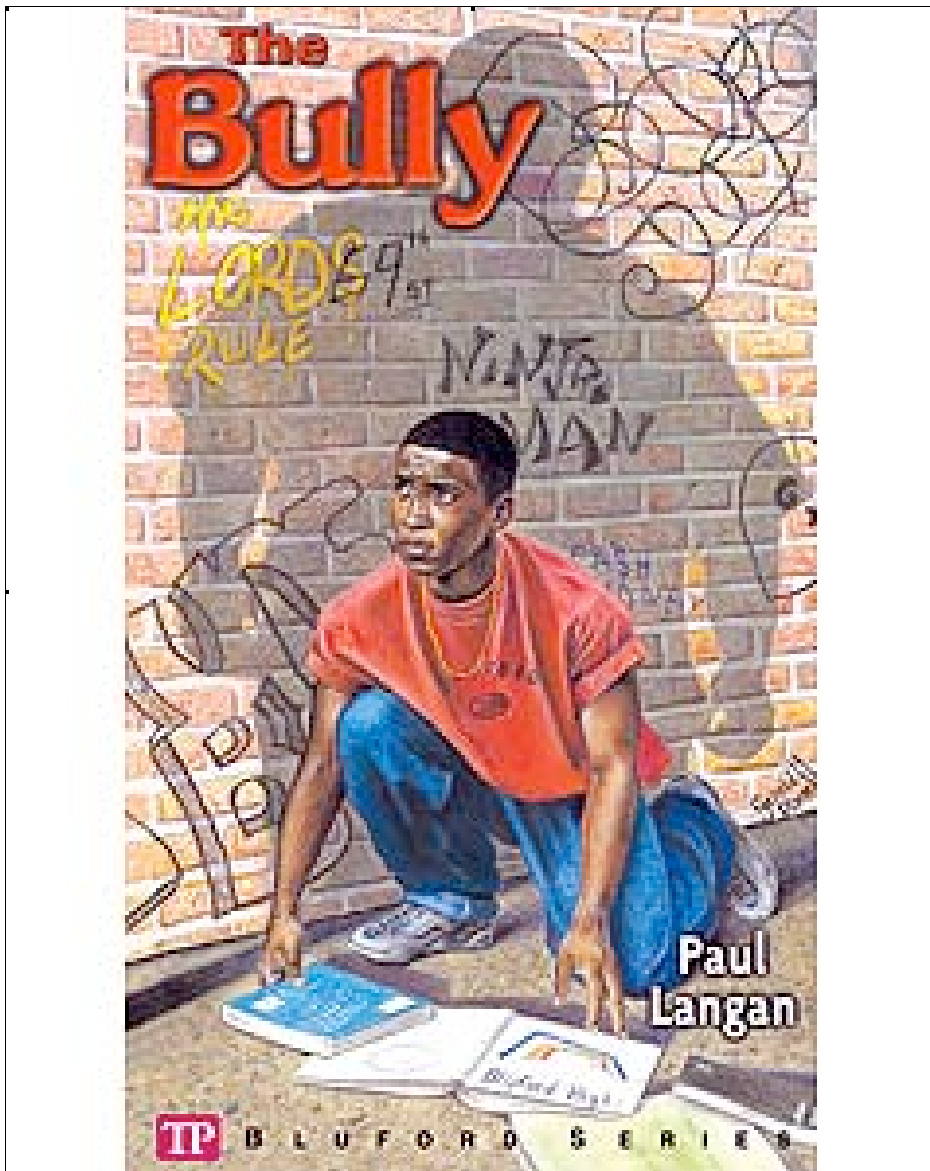


Summer Reading
6th Grade
Attucks Middle School



Reading is Cool Even When Summer is Hot!

PREDICTION TIME:

Study the picture on the front cover, read the back cover, and open the novel to the middle of the book and read. Based on all of that information, write or draw what you believe the main conflict in the story will be about.

Chapter 1

Vocabulary in context

Use context clues to determine synonyms and/or antonyms for the vocabulary below.

Vocabulary	Synonyms	Antonyms
Wavering pg. 1		
abandoned pg. 2	deserted, forgotten	
retaliate pg. 7		
pathetic pg. 8	weak, useless	strong
eliminate pg. 8		
resolved pg. 9		
menacing pg. 10		
massive pg. 11		
coordinated pg. 12		clumsy
burly pg. 19	big and strong	
mocking page 24	teasing	

1. Why would moving to a new state cause Darrell to be afraid and concerned? Respond in at least 2 complete sentences.

2. What occurred that caused Darrell's mother to take the job in California?

- a. The people where she lived did not like Darrell.
- b. She could not find a job making enough money.
- c. She said the weather got too cold.
- d. She thought her family wanted her to be near them.

Chapter 2

Vocabulary in Content

Use context clues to determine synonyms and/or antonyms for the vocabulary below.

Vocabulary	Synonyms	Antonyms
<i>clutches</i> pg. 30		
<i>hesitate</i> pg. 32	<i>wait</i>	
<i>fuming</i> pg. 33		<i>happy</i>
<i>scolded</i> pg. 38		
<i>dreary</i> pg. 39		<i>Interesting, cheerful</i>
<i>lurking</i> pg. 38		
<i>familiar</i> pg. 41		
<i>deliberately</i> pg.45		<i>accidentally</i>
<i>anxiety</i> pg. 46	<i>worry</i>	
<i>rapidly</i> pg. 46		<i>slow</i>
<i>tangled</i> pg. 49		

1. Why did Darrell think smiling at the group of guys like his mother told him would help him make friends? Answer in complete sentences.

2. In chapter 2 it states “Darrell looked at his uncle with awe.”

What does the word awe mean?

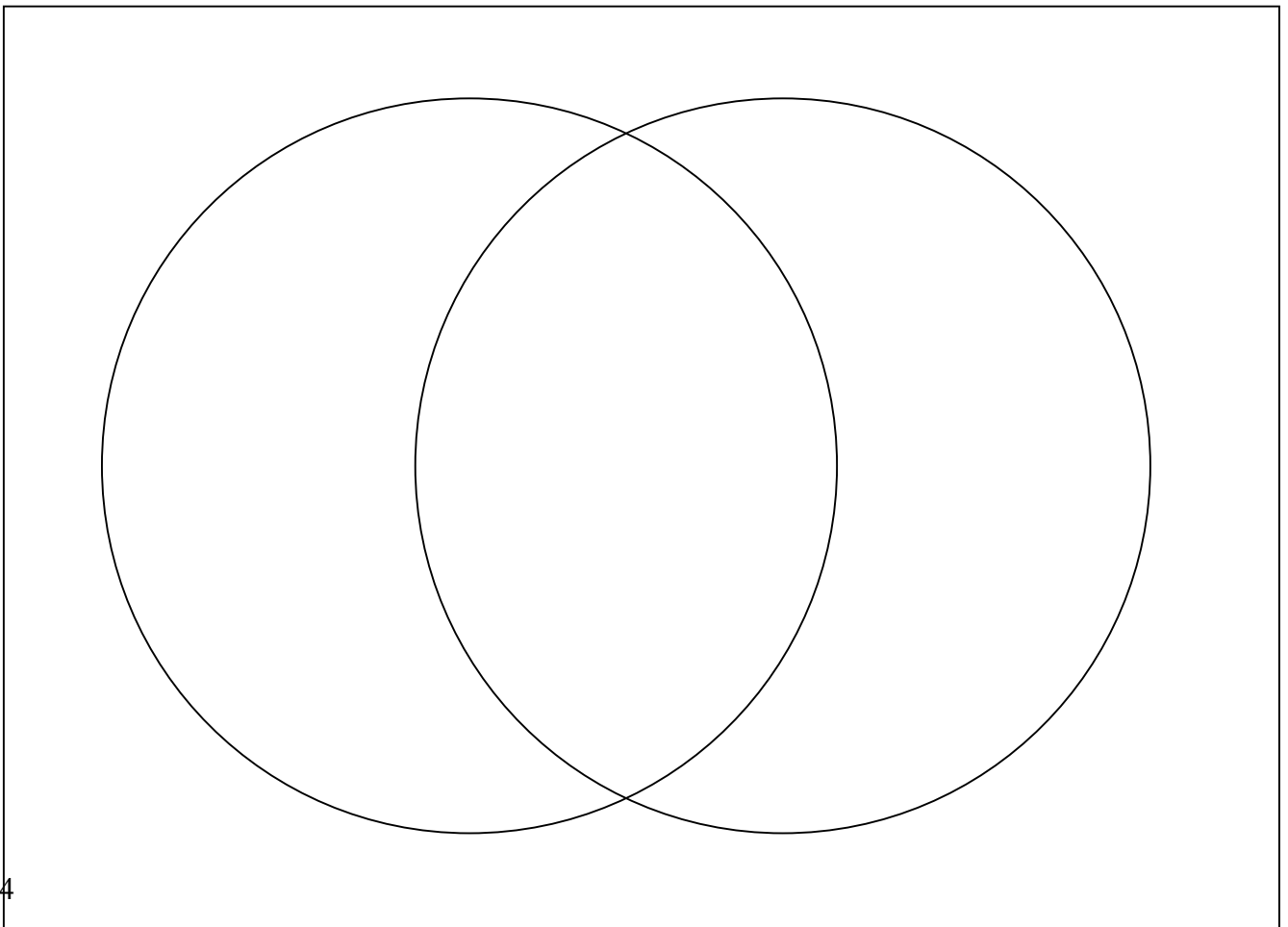
- a. feeling of anxiety
- b. to be scared of
- c. feeling of wonder or admiration
- d. excitement

Chapter 3

1. During your reading of chapter 3 find ways that Darrell and his cousin, Travis are alike and different. Fill-out the Venn diagram below for Darrell for Travis. Where the circles come together, write the ways that they are similar and in the other parts of the circles write the ways they are different.

Darrell

Travis



2. Did Darrel enjoy his first lunch period at Bluford High? Why or why not did he feel this way? Explain your answer with details from the book.

3. Which sentence best characterizes Darrell's attitude toward California after meeting Amber Lynn?

- a. He thinks California is an exciting place to live.
- b. He feels better about moving to California and is hopeful about making new friends.
- c. He is afraid most people in California are like her.
- d. He likes the people and loves the town.

4. How do you think Darrell feels about Nate? Explain your answer with details from the book.

5. Which words best describes Darrell's mother?

- a. concerned, loving, compassionate
- b. tough, compassionate
- c. inconsiderate, lazy
- d. fun, loving, tough

Chapter 4

1. What does the author mean by saying, "The weather seemed to match his mood. A raw November rain left the sky dull gray and sunless." Explain your answer with details from the book.

2. What caused Tyray to have his seat moved to the front of Mr. Mitchell's class?

- a. Tyray wanted to sit next to Amber Lynn.
- b. Tyray and his best friend like Mr. Mitchell.
- c. There were not any seats left by the time Tyray arrived in class.
- d. Tyray was bullying Darrell and Mr. Mitchell asked him to move to the front of the class.

3. How was Darrell's first day of school?

- a. He made a lot of friends and was very popular.
- b. Darrell did not make any friends and Tyray bullied him.

- c. Darrell talked with Amber Lynn all day.
- d. Darrell made friends with Jamal and Miguel.

4. What does anxiety mean?

- a. to worry
- b to reassurance
- c. to be loud
- d. to have fear

Vocabulary in Content

Use context clues to determine synonyms and/or antonyms for the vocabulary below.

<i>Vocabulary</i>	<i>Synonyms</i>	<i>Antonyms</i>
<i>unbearable</i>	<i>awful, unpleasant</i>	<i>bearable</i>
<i>confidence</i>		<i>Unsure, doubtful</i>
<i>hoisting</i>		
<i>imitating</i>		
<i>humiliate</i>	<i>Put down (especially in public)</i>	
<i>intact</i>	<i>undamaged</i>	
<i>confront</i>		
<i>frantic</i>	<i>Anxious, hysterical, hurried</i>	<i>calm</i>
<i>scowled</i>		<i>smile</i>
<i>torment</i>	<i>Tease, annoy</i>	
<i>rummage</i>		

Chapter 5

1. What is the main idea of the excerpt below?

“So, Darrell, how was your first day at Bluford?” She asked warmly. “I’ve been here forever, and I had a miserable day. I got two teachers mad at me because I forgot something I was supposed to turn in today. I dropped spaghetti on my shirt at lunchtime, and this guy I like dissed me for this other girl... So how about you?”

- a. Darrell had a bad day at school.
- b. Darrell got two teachers mad because he didn’t turn in homework.
- c. Darrell dirtied his shirt at lunchtime.
- d. Darrell was dissed by a student at school.

2. Which sentence best summarizes the excerpt below?

During algebra class, Darrell was sure Amberlynn looked right at him. He knew she did. She was only about five feet away. But then she looked away as if she had never seen him before. Didn’t she remember standing in the line at the supermarket? Didn’t she remember saying “we freshmen as if they had a special bond? Clearly their conversation was not as important to her as it was to him.

- a. Amberlynn has a poor memory and doesn’t recognize Darrell.
- b. Darrell is upset that Amberlynn seems to be ignoring him.
- c. Amberlynn sits only about five feet away from Darrell.
- d. Amberlynn stood in line at the supermarket with Darrell.

3. Darrell was glad to find that most of the fruit was intact. What does the word intact mean in this sentence?

- a. rotten
- b. delicious
- c. undamaged
- d. inexpensive

After reading the chapters, fill out the **CHARACTER MAP** and **CONFLICT MAP** below. Focus on the character of Darrell, Mom, Tyray, and Uncle Jason.

CHARACTER MAP



Enter the character's name

What does the character look like?

How does the character act?

How do other characters in the story react to this character?

CONFLICT MAP



What is the conflict?

Why does this conflict occur?

What are some ways the conflict could be resolved?

Chapter 6

1. Darrell knew that paying Tyray was wrong. The shame and guilt he felt for giving his mother's money to a bully swept over him in unending waves... A few minutes after he arrived at the supermarket parking lot, Darrell spotted Tyray and Rodney coming towards him. Tyray led the way. He was smoking a cigarette. Both boys eyed Darrell as he approached.

How did Darrell feel at the time?

- a. Darrell felt awful about himself paying off a bully
- b. Darrell thought he has always been small and weak
- c. Darrell never before paid off a bully.

2. In Chapter 6 we are told, "**Darrell and his friends made it a rule never to bring adults into their problems, especially teachers.**" Explain why or why not this rule should apply to Darrel's current situation? Answer in at least 3 complete sentences.

3. The next morning, Darrell walked on the main street to Bluford. He knew Tyray would confront him, but at least it would happen when he expected it.

What does the word confront mean?

- a. avoid
 - b. admire
 - c. ignore
 - d. challenge
4. Why did Tyray say, "**There's the little punk that didn't show up this morning. You better have somethin' for me, or those oranges ain't going to be to only things that get crushed.**"?
- a. Tyray plans to crush Darrell's other groceries.
 - b. Tyray is threatening to hurt Darrell.
 - c. Tyray is sad that Darrell did not meet him as planned.
 - d. Tyray wanted attention from the crowd.
5. What is the main reason that Darrell left Coach Lewis' office feeling different?
- a. He was sure he will be a great wrestler.
 - b. He was not sure his mother will give him permission to wrestle.
 - c. He had taken a positive step.
 - d. He was no longer discouraged about Tyray.

6. After reading the chapter compares Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Dooling and how observant and aware they really are of what is happening in their class. Use the chart below.

Mr. Mitchell

Same

Mr. Dooling

7. According to the passage what is confusing about Amberlynn's behavior toward Darrell? Explain your answer with details from the book.

Vocabulary in Content

Use context clues to determine synonyms and/or antonyms for the vocabulary below.

<i>Vocabulary</i>	<i>synonyms</i>	<i>antonyms</i>
<i>exhausted pg. 95</i>		
<i>despite pg. 96</i>	<i>in spite of</i>	
<i>transformed pg.100</i>	<i>changed, altered</i>	
<i>endurance pg.109</i>		
<i>frail pg.112</i>		<i>strong</i>
<i>collapse pg.118</i>		

Chapter 7

1. Read the following excerpt from the story:

“Darrell read the part about Brian’s transformation again . . . In Hatchet, Brian changed when he realized that he was not going to survive alone in the woods.”

What does the word transformation mean?

- a. relaxation
- c. creation
- b. change
- d. rescue

2. What effect does Mr. Mitchell think reading Hatchet will have on Darrell?

- a. Helps him with reading comprehension.
- b. Gets him to develop a love for reading.
- c. Gets him to discuss the information contained in the story.
- d. Helps him build his self – esteem.

3. What is the main idea of the following excerpt?

“When Darrell got to the gym, he went straight to the locker room. It was much different this late in the day. The only people there were athletes. The guys changing out of their school clothes were bigger and more muscular than the average Bluford student. Surrounded by this group, Darrell stood out even more than usual.”

- a. Darrell went to the locker room after school.
- b. The locker room was different after school than it was during school.
- c. Darrell felt especially out of place among the athletes in the locker room.
- d. Darrell met the other athletes for the first time

4. When Darrell begins to read Hatchet he does not enjoy it. How does his attitude towards the book change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use details and information from the text to support your answer.

Chapter 8

1. Why does Amberlynn react as she does when Tyray accuses her of liking Darrell? Use details and information from the text to support your answer.

2. Why do both Mr. Mitchell and Coach Lewis emphasize the importance of “inner strength” to Darrel?

- a. They are aware that he is too small for wrestling.
- b. They want him to try out for wrestling.
- c. They knew that he had the inner ability to excel.
- d. They wanted to be his mentor.

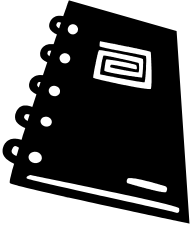
3. In the following excerpt, what does the word exhausted mean?

Longer hours at work made Mom more exhausted in the evenings.

- a. energized
- b. talkative
- c. wealthy
- d. helpful

4. Why does Amberlynn react as she does when Tyray accuses her of liking Darrell? Use details and information from the text to support your answer.

RECORD INFORMATION



Fill in the boxes or the characters in the chart below that are bullies, bullied, or bystanders.

BULLIES	BULLIED	BYSTANDERS

Chapter 9

Vocabulary in Content

Use context clues to determine synonyms and/or antonyms for the vocabulary below.

Vocabulary	Synonym	Antonyms
opponent pg. 128	rival, challenger	
hindering pg. 134		
resented pg. 144	dislike, be offended by	
ventured pg. 159	take the risk	

1. Why do you think kids looked the other way when Tyray was bothering Darrell? Answer in at least 2 complete sentences.

Chapter 10

1. On page 160 it states **“Your momma must be real proud of you,” Rodney added with a chuckle.**”.

We know that Darrel is suffering true shame and guilt for stealing money from his mother to pay off these bullies. What do you think Rodney really meant when he said these words to Darrel? Answer in at least 3 complete sentences.

2. One of the lessons “Darrell quickly learned was that wrestling is like a class. To master it, you had to use strategy.” What does strategy mean in this passage?

- a. strength
- b. force
- c. mental ability
- d. muscles

3. What evidence from chapter 10 supports the fact that “wrestling is tough”? Use quotes from the text to support your answer.

4. On page 129 it states, “Darrell hated losing in practice, but at least he was not being humiliated like he had been on Friday.”

What does humiliated mean?

- a. rejected
- b. embarrassed
- c. hurt
- d. angered

5. Explain in at least 2 sentences why Darrell was so appreciative when Kevin gave him a compliment by telling him he did a good job?

Chapter 11

1. Describe Darrell’s reaction when he discovered that Travis locked Nate in the trunk. Answer in at least 2 complete sentences.

Vocabulary in Content

Use context clues to determine synonyms and/or antonyms for the vocabulary below.

<i>Vocabulary</i>	<i>Synonyms</i>	<i>Antonyms</i>
<i>grateful pg. 163</i>		
<i>bickering pg. 164</i>		
<i>mock pg. 176</i>		
<i>resolution pg. 171</i>		<i>conflict</i>

Chapter 12

1. Which word best describes how Darrell felt when he decided to walk straight to school and not stop at the supermarket to meet Tyray?
 - a. excited
 - b. proud
 - c. anxious
 - d. ashamed
2. What happened that made Darrell feel he was now able to be brave enough to stop paying Tyray? Use details and information from the text to support your answer.

3. On page 181 the author writes “Everyone was scrambling to get the best position to see what would happen next.”. What does the word scrambling mean in the context of the sentence?

- a. running fast
- b. pushing everyone
- c. moving urgently
- d. backing away

4. Use the chart below and compare how Darrell was when he first arrived at Bluford High School to how he is at the end of the book.

Darrell's First Day

Darrell at the End of the Book

5. *How does the principal decide to handle the situation between Darrell and Tyray?*
Use details and information from the text to support your answer.

6. *What do you find most surprising and/or exciting in the final chapter of the book?*

Ohhhh great crystal ball, what do you see in the future for Darrell? Above the crystal ball write what you think will happen next.



Scene Illustration

Think of your favorite scene from the book. Write a paragraph explaining why this was your favorite scene. In addition, draw a picture of how you imagine that scene would look. Try to include as much detail as possible about all the characters involved and the surrounding scenery.

Epilogue

An epilogue is a short final chapter of a story that discusses what happened after the main action of the story is finished. Write an epilogue for The Bully, discussing what you would like to see happen to the main characters after the story ends.

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